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lagari said. "We just kind of reassure
each other. We've done it every single
game since we were starting as fresh-
men."

Maryland Cross-Country

Pulliam Tugs Team to Title

By CHRISTOPHER B. JENKINS
Special to The Washington Post

PARKTON, Md., Nov. 10—Karen Pulliam's hard work and dedication did more than lift her to a second straight Maryland 4A cross-country championship today at Hereford High School. It also inspired her Quince Orchard teammates to meet their lofty goals.

Pulliam, who had bone spurs removed from both feet this summer, won in 19 minutes 26.90 seconds, a year after setting a state record here. Led by Pulliam and junior Rose Overbey, a 5-foot-1 first-year runner who placed ninth, four Quince Orchard runners finished in the top 15 as the Cougars captured the school's first girls' state title.

"It was my second state title, my record still stands and I'm excited for the team," Pulliam said. "What more could I ask for?"

In the 3A boys' race, River Hill senior Shane Stroup powered through a course that features two steep inclines and held off Dulaney's Billy Duffy and Mount Hebron's Matt Spencer to win his first title in 16:02.14, two seconds off of the course record. Stroup, the defending Maryland 3A mile champion, was more than 14 seconds ahead of second-place Duffy and 22 seconds ahead of Spencer. He passed Spencer on the second 350-foot incline to take the lead.

"If you throw in a surge when everyone else is tired they shut down mentally," Stroup said.

Northwest had a breakthrough performance in its first year in 3A, capturing the school's first state cross-country title with five runners in the top 27. Walter Johnson sophomore Ashley St. Denis used a late surge to pull away from Dulaney senior Tenke Zoltani and win the 3A girls' title in 19:26.98. Led by second-place Zoltani, Dulaney took the team title while Walter Johnson placed third.

Oakland Mills senior Izudin Mehmedovic finished in 16:33.04 to win his second consecutive state title, and the Scorpions captured their second boys' team title at 1A.

Glenelg won its first 2A boys' title since 1991 as Ben Adams (seventh), Jake Hartman (ninth), Robert Pencek (10th), Scott Shores (13th) and Philip Crehan (23rd) finished in the top 23.

Harford County's C.M. Wright produced the lowest point total since 1968 and won the 4A boys' title with 20 points.

Fort Hill's Justin Faith held off Bethesda Chevy-Chase's Zach Vaslow for the 2A boys' title.

Westmar's Jennifer Patton won the 1A girls' race by 19 seconds and Smithsburg won its second consecutive title. Oakland Mills's Tracy Singer placed sixth to lead her team to a fifth-place finish.



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